

**Abstract 496**

**TITLE:** HIV/STD Prevention for Female Sex Workers and Clients in Bali, Indonesia

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**BACKGROUND/OBJECTIVES:** Prostitution has been a major factor in the spread of HIV infection in Asia. This presentation describes a community-level intervention program for sex workers and clients in several low price brothel areas of Bali, Indonesia.

**METHODS:** The intervention consists of group education and outreach for female sex workers, STD treatment for female sex workers, condom distribution, and media for clients. The education program for sex workers includes interactive groups sessions, outreach and a video prepared to reflect the life experiences of the sex workers. Intervention areas are divided into more intensive and less intensive areas for program effort. The intervention is evaluated with a series of behavioral surveys conducted at six-month intervals for 600 sex workers and 500 clients and STD testing for female sex workers. The study period was from 1997-1999. This abstract reports on interim results from the first year of the study. Sex workers were evaluated for syphilis (TPHA/RPR), *Neisseria gonorrhea* (PCR), *chlamydia trachomatis* (PCR), herpes (PCR), HPV (PCR), and *trichomonas* (culture).

**RESULTS:** Survey results show a high reported level of condom use and increasing knowledge of sexually transmitted diseases, particularly in the areas of higher program effort. STD prevalence was high at baseline (gonorrhea, 60.5%; chlamydia 41.3%; syphilis 10.9%; trichomonas, 11.3%; herpes, 2.0%; HPV, 38.3) and 6 months later, levels decreased for syphilis and trichomonas. For women present at both survey rounds, gonorrhea was also reduced.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Behavioral interventions with STD treatment for female sex workers can reduce vulnerability to HIV infection.

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